

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 647

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the  
Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts  
Festival.

WHEREAS, each year, the Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival draws hundreds of musicians and crafts people and many thousands of spectators from around the world; and

WHEREAS, the first Smithville Jamboree opened on July 1, 1972, and the event has been held every year since on the Friday and Saturday nearest to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July; and

WHEREAS, the first Smith Fiddlers' Jamboree attracted 714 musicians representing sixteen states with an estimated audience of 8,000; today's audience is estimated at 25,000-30,000 over the course of the two-day event; and

WHEREAS, the first Jamboree featured thirteen categories of competition with prize money of \$1,200; today there are thirty-one categories with more than \$12,000 in prize money; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, a broader tribute to Appalachian art and culture was initiated when 100 crafts people from twelve states participated in the first Crafts Festival at the Jamboree; this event has since grown to include more than 250 artisans who sell and display authentic pioneer and contemporary crafts that are subject to the highest standards; and

WHEREAS, a new category, "The National Championship for Country Musician Beginners, Ages 12 and Under," was added in 1984 to provide an opportunity for young people to determine the champion of their chosen instrument through friendly competition; the trophy for this popular event is now named in honor of one of the Jamboree's founding fathers, James G. "Bobo" Driver; and

WHEREAS, in the very beginning, the Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree was recorded for television by the British Broadcasting Company and many others; WCTE of Cookeville now televises the Jamboree annually, and through the magic of public television, the event is shown all over the country; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of the Jamboree is attested to by its selection as a "Top 20 Tourist Favorite" by the Southern Tourism Society for each of the past sixteen years; also listed as one of the top 100 tourist events in North America, the Jamboree has been rated fourth best in the U.S. for summer vacations by *Vacation* magazine; and

WHEREAS, the beautiful Appalachian Arts and Crafts Center that overlooks Center Hill Lake is named in honor of the late Congressman Joe L. Evins, in honor of his seminal role in the creation of the Jamboree and his commitment to preserving Appalachian art, music, and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Junior and Senior Fiddle-Off Grand Champion receives a trophy named in honor of another Jamboree founding father, Berry C. Williams; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival became "The Official Tennessee and National Jamboree and Crafts Festival"; and

WHEREAS, this Independence Day tradition started in 1972 is still going strong today, as the Festival continues to preserve and pay homage to the music and art of our ancestors and celebrate the simple pleasure of listening to pure, unadulterated live Appalachian music ringing through the streets of downtown Smithville, population 4,305; and

WHEREAS, the Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival and its board of directors are committed to preserving the heritage of country and bluegrass music and Appalachian arts and crafts, and they are richly deserving of our recognition on this special anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the citizens of Smithville and Tennesseans from all walks of life in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.